AmericanGirl®

May/June 2002

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Free! Party Memory Book

Take a Quiz with Your Best Friend

Learn Sign Language with Amelia

WOW! 25 Slumber Party Ideas!

Make Pretty Gifts for Mom

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Clearly Colorful

Create a one-of-a-kind craft for Mom.

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Ally S.

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About the Cover

Meet Ally S., age 9. To make this cover as bright as Ally's smile and as pretty as her flowers, we tried all kinds of different spring colors for the words and the background. Want to try your own color combos on the AG cover? Go to the "Behind the Scenes" section at **americangirl.com**!

Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

Cover photo: Monica Skeisvoll

Letters from You

Back in Time

I loved the article "The New Frontier" in your January/February 2002 issue. It's really cool how Erinn and her family went from modern day to the 1880s. I took your quiz, and it turns out that I am fond of the things that make modern life comfortable. I guess I would like to visit the frontier but never live there!

Julia B.
Age 10, Vermont

Wondering how Erinn is adjusting to modern life? Turn to page 4!

Groovin' Girls

My friends and I loved "Dancing Divas" in the January/February issue. It was *so* much fun! We loved doing each other's hair, making up dance moves, and getting our groove on! Thanks for the awesome ideas.

Tara B.
Age 12, Alabama

Terrific TV

I'm glad you had an article about *State of Grace*—it's one of my favorite shows. I think that girls can relate to the show, and the characters are fun. How can I write to Mae Whitman and Alia Shawkat?

Christie G.
Age 12, Pennsylvania

You can write to Mae and Alia at:
State of Grace, ABC Family
10960 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Summer Savings

Thank you for the saving tips in "Money Matters" in the January/February issue. My family's going on a summer trip, so I'm saving now. It can't hurt to have a little spending money in my pockets!

Rachel P.
Age 12, Washington

Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

AmericanGirl
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to im_agmag_editor@pleasantco.com.

No matter how you write us, be sure to include your full name and birth date. We can't use every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

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AmericanGirl

Girls Express

Buzzword

American girls everywhere will be using this buzzword this season:

gadfly

How to say it: GAD-fly

What it means: an annoying person

Where it comes from: "Gadfly" comes from the English word *gad*, a name for a long stick that's sometimes used to poke cows along. Poor cows!

One way to use it: "Trula's brother became a little gadfly whenever she talked on the phone."

The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? Answer is on page 44.

Illustrations: Paul Meisel

Bud-erfly

Brushing with Monty

Meet Samantha B. and her pal Monty. Last year, Samantha and Monty were inseparable. They watched videos, climbed trees, played hopscotch, and ate together. Sounds like the normal stuff friends do, right? Right—only Monty was a butterfly!

Samantha, age eight, first met Monty one day when she was gently catching butterflies outside her home. When she let the others go, Monty stayed—and *stayed*. He clung to her shirt, sat on her nose, and even rode along on her bike helmet. At night, Samantha would set Monty outside, but in the morning he'd be back for breakfast. "He'd sip sugar water from a spoon while I ate Cheerios," says Samantha.

After a week, Monty left—probably to migrate to Mexico with other monarchs. "Maybe next year," says Samantha, "one of Monty's children will come back to visit!"

Samantha reads as Monty wings it.

So Long!

Try these fun ways to say "Good-bye, school!" and "Hello, summer!"

Join a summer reading program. Find out how at americangirl.com.

Wear plain sneakers to school, and ask your friends to sign them with a permanent marker. (Check with Mom first!)

Thank the custodian for keeping the school clean.

Throw a school's-out slumber party. See pages 24 to 29 for great tips!

Give your teacher an A+. Let your favorite teacher know how much you enjoyed being in his or her class. Write a letter full of your favorite memories, and include the best thing you learned all year. Deliver it on the last day of school.

Do an end-of-the-year cheer:

"It's been great,
Let's celebrate!
Summer's here—
And we can't wait!"

Photo: Hot Shots/Don Bartkowiak Additional credits on page 2.

Bloomin' Board

Bored with your board? Give it a splash of spring!

Use scissors to cut a piece of AstroTurf (available at large hardware stores) to cover a bulletin board. Use jewel glue (available at craft stores) to attach the grass to the board. Let dry.

Remove the stem from a fake flower and pin the blossom to your board.

Use jewel glue to attach pretty rhinestones to a thumbtack. Let dry.

Back from the Past

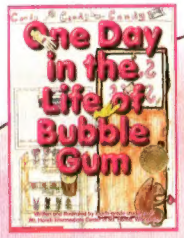
In our January/February issue, you met Erinn P., age 13, a girl who left her modern life to live like a pioneer for the PBS show *The Frontier House.* Here's how life has changed for Erinn now that she's home:

	BEFORE *FRONTIER*	AFTER *FRONTIER*
chores	"I was *supposed* to clean my room, but I never did."	Thinks cleaning her room is nothing after milking cows and churning butter
clothes	"I'd never wear the same thing twice in one week."	"Now I don't care what people think. I even wear my favorite piggy toe socks with sandals!"
music	Listened to her favorite groups on the radio	"I listen to music even more because I missed it so much on the frontier. But now I play my guitar, too."
junk food	Loved Mountain Dew and Hershey bars	"I've only had one glass of root beer. Soda's way too strong! And candy's just bad."
e-talk	E-mailed friends regularly	"I've only sent one e-mail. Why write to friends you can visit instead?"

Watch The Frontier House April 29 to May 1!

Double Bubbles

Chew on these sticky stories!

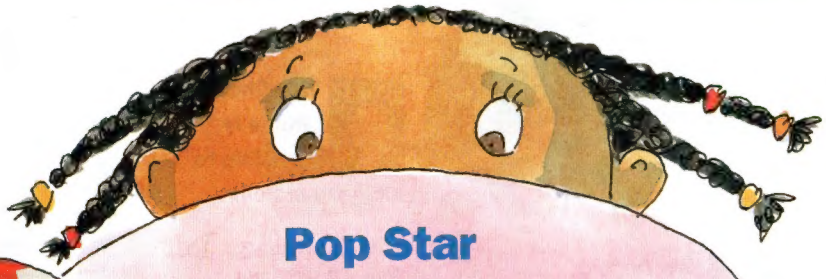


Bubbly Book

What happens to a piece of bubble gum after you're done chewing it? That's what five kids wrote about in *One Day in the Life of Bubble Gum*, a book that won the grand prize in Scholastic's "Kids Are Authors" contest. The Wisconsin fourth-graders wrote and illustrated the book as a special project, and Scholastic published it. Emma G., age 11, was one of the book's authors. What's her favorite part? "The surprise ending!" she says.

Go to www.scholastic.com/kidsareauthors for more info on this year's winners—and how you can enter next year's contest!

Clockwise from top left: Emma G., Riley K., Erica W., Lily S., and Anna H.



Pop Star

When Anna H., age 11, chews bubble gum, she thinks big—*really* big. Last summer, Anna's 13-inch bubble made her the national bubble-blowing champion! The Florida girl competed against five other finalists in Dubble Bubble's contest. As the grand prize winner, Anna received a $10,000 savings bond plus a $5,000 donation to the Children's Miracle Network in her name. "I just closed my eyes and blew," says Anna of her prize-winning bubble. "I didn't want to get gum in my eyes when it popped!"

Enter Dubble Bubble's 2002 contest! Go to www.dubblebubble.com for details.

Photo: Stan Kotecki/Dubble Bubble

AG POLL

Your answers:

In our January/February 2002 issue, we asked you if you had an unusual nickname. More than 900 of you said "Yes!" Here are some of your nicknames:

Ladybug

Reese's Pieces

Sardines

"Some teachers call me Big Al because I'm small," says Alex M., age 12, of Connecticut. "I love it!"

Next question:

If you could invite anyone to your birthday party, who would it be? The Queen of England? Super skater Sarah Hughes? How about your favorite cousin from far away? Write your dream birthday guest below. Then tell us why you chose that person.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your name, address, and birth date.

A Friend

When I'm down
and feeling blue,
I know that I
can count on you.
You make me laugh and
make me smile,
Being serious all the while.
You are what I call a friend,
Sticking with me till the end.
You're straight from the heart,
And that's the best part!

Emilee B.
Age 13, Ohio

Pair up with a pal and take our friendship quiz on pages 32 to 34!

Cut out your answer and mail it to us.

Help Wanted!

Help us keep the Giggle Gang busy! Do you know a brain-boggling word or number puzzle? Do you have a cool magic trick up your sleeve? Do you know any great games or secret codes? Send your original ideas to the address on page 2 with your full name, address, and birth date. Your idea might make it into a future Giggle Gang!

A Shoe-per Duper

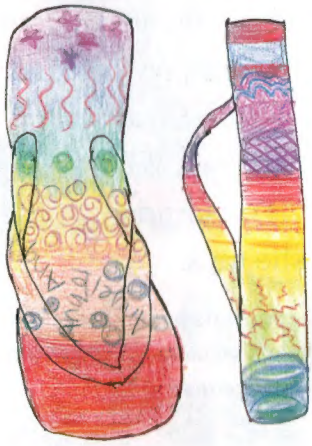
We asked you to design some fab footwear.

"My totally cool shoes will change their color to match whatever you wear!"

Etoey C.
Age 14, California

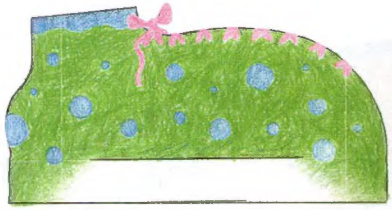
"I call my clogs Flutterbies!"

Erika F.
Age 11, Illinois



"I call these boots Smilewear."

Sunya M.
Age 12, Alaska



"My Shoe Purse is invisible to anyone but you!"

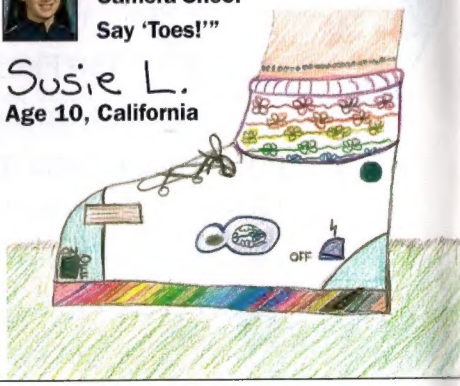
Jeanette D.
Age 12, Indiana

"My Rodent Rollers give your little friends lots of exercise!"

Frances M.
Age 11, Kansas

"This is my Camera Shoe. Say 'Toes!'"

Susie L.
Age 10, California



Contest

Our winners were a perfect fit!

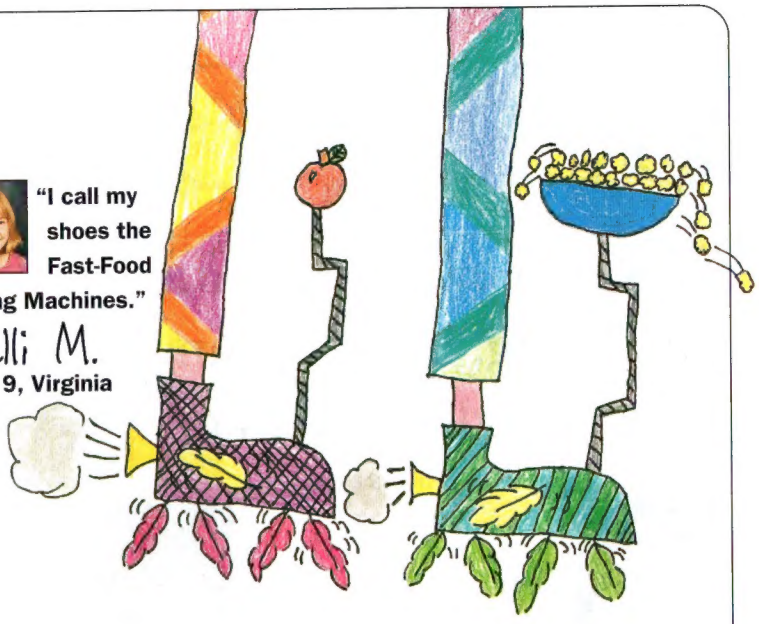
Go to "Behind the Scenes" at americangirl.com for more contest entries!

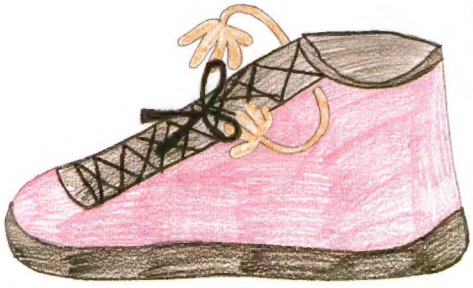
"This is my City Shoe."

Ellen S.
Age 12, California

"I call my shoes the Fast-Food Flying Machines."

Kelli M.
Age 9, Virginia



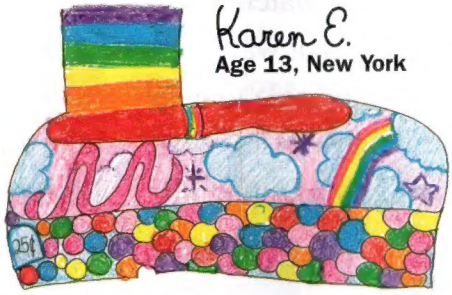


"My shoes tie your laces for you."

Kathryn H.
Age 11, Maryland

"My shoes will dispense gumballs anytime."

Karen E.
Age 13, New York



"My Beat Feet have a built-in radio and a remote that clips onto your belt."

Emmy M.
Age 13, Wisconsin

"My shoes light your way in the dark."

Jenny H.
Age 13, Tennessee

New Contest: Design an Outfit for Santa

Give Santa a new look! What would Santa wear to go golfing with the elves? What would his pajamas look like? Would his baseball cap have reindeer antlers? Draw a picture of Santa wearing his new outfit, and send it to the address on page 2 with your full name, address, and birth date. Deadline: June 15, 2002. Winners will appear in our November/December 2002 issue.

Heart to Heart

Being Brave

Have you ever been afraid to do something, but did it anyway? How did you find the courage?

I wanted to go down a huge slide at a theme park. I climbed six flights of stairs to get to the top, and got scared. Then a two-year-old went down, and I thought, "If she can do it, then I can, too." So I did!

Chelsea E.
Age 9, New Mexico

I was nervous to try out for our school basketball team. I was the youngest one, and I felt outnumbered playing in front of everybody older than me. I just did my best and tried my hardest. I made the junior varsity team, and was the only girl in my grade to make it!

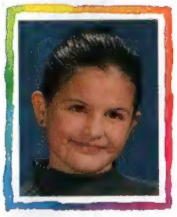
Katie M.
Age 12, Maine

Last summer at camp I wanted to go off the diving board so bad, but I was too chicken. Every time I tried to do it I would get off because I would feel the board wobble. Then I decided to ask the lifeguard if she could watch me as I jumped off. That way, if I panicked, she'd be able to help me. Then I finally did it. It was fun, and now I do it all the time.

Tonya B.
Age 12, Louisiana

I'm in gymnastics. When I'm afraid to try a new skill, my coach says, "I wouldn't be telling you to do it if I didn't think you could." That makes me feel confident and safe.

Amy S.
Age 12, Wisconsin



My family went to a restaurant with karaoke. My parents begged me to go up and sing, but I was embarrassed. Then I thought, "I'm never going to see all these people again. I should just go up there and have fun!" So I did. The audience was clapping and cheering, and I felt like a superstar.

Alexis C.
Age 11, New York

If I'm scared to do something, I just think, "I can do this! I can do this!" over and over. Soon I believe I really can do it, and then I'm not scared anymore.

Lindsey A.
Age 9, Louisiana

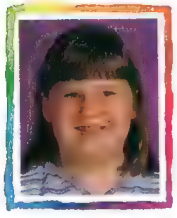
Illustrations: Laura Cornell

I was in the play *Annie*. I was scared I'd forget my lines or cough when I was singing. Then I saw my music teacher sitting in the front row. She winked at me, and I knew everything would be fine.

Destin B.
Age 10, Wisconsin

I went to a ranch in Australia that served crocodile chowder. When I got my bowl, I spent 20 minutes putting the fork to my mouth without eating any. I wanted to make the most of my trip, so I tried it. I'm glad I did. I liked it!

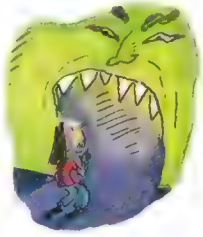
Madison P.
Age 13, Michigan



I once went on a very big ride. It was called "The Tempest." I was scared, but I knew it would be O.K. because the people getting off had smiles on their faces. I'm glad I rode on it!

Claire D.
Age 6, Wisconsin

I was scared the first time I went into a haunted house. Then I remembered that the only way to conquer fears is to face them. When I got out, I laughed about how silly I'd been.



Alex V.
Age 13, California

I was afraid to go to school because I was new. I was sitting alone at recess, and I had to do something to make friends. I took a deep breath, went up to a girl, and said, "Hi." Before long, we were friends.

Aneri P.
Age 12, Illinois

I was scared to dance in front of a huge audience. My mom told me to enjoy it because I wouldn't get to do it again for a really long time. I had a blast! Never let fear take away something wonderful. You could miss the opportunity of a lifetime.

Hilary H.
Age 12, Colorado

If you don't ever try something new or different, then you'll miss so much of life. Take a chance, and even if it doesn't turn out, you will be a better person for trying.

Kristen S.
Age 12, Ohio

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Weird or wonderful presents. What's the most unusual gift you've ever gotten? A surprise visit from far-away family members, a kooky song with your name in it, or a gigantic pink stuffed monkey? Who gave it to you? What made it so special? Tell us all about it!

Send answers, *full name*, birth date, and photo to: AmericanGirl 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton, WI 53562.

Deadline: June 7, 2002.

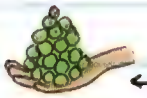
Some answers will appear in the November/December issue.

Amelia's Notebook

Amelia Lends a Hand

by Marissa Moss

(except all handiwork by Amelia!)



The usual sounds of summer:

ice cream truck music

buzzzzzzing bees

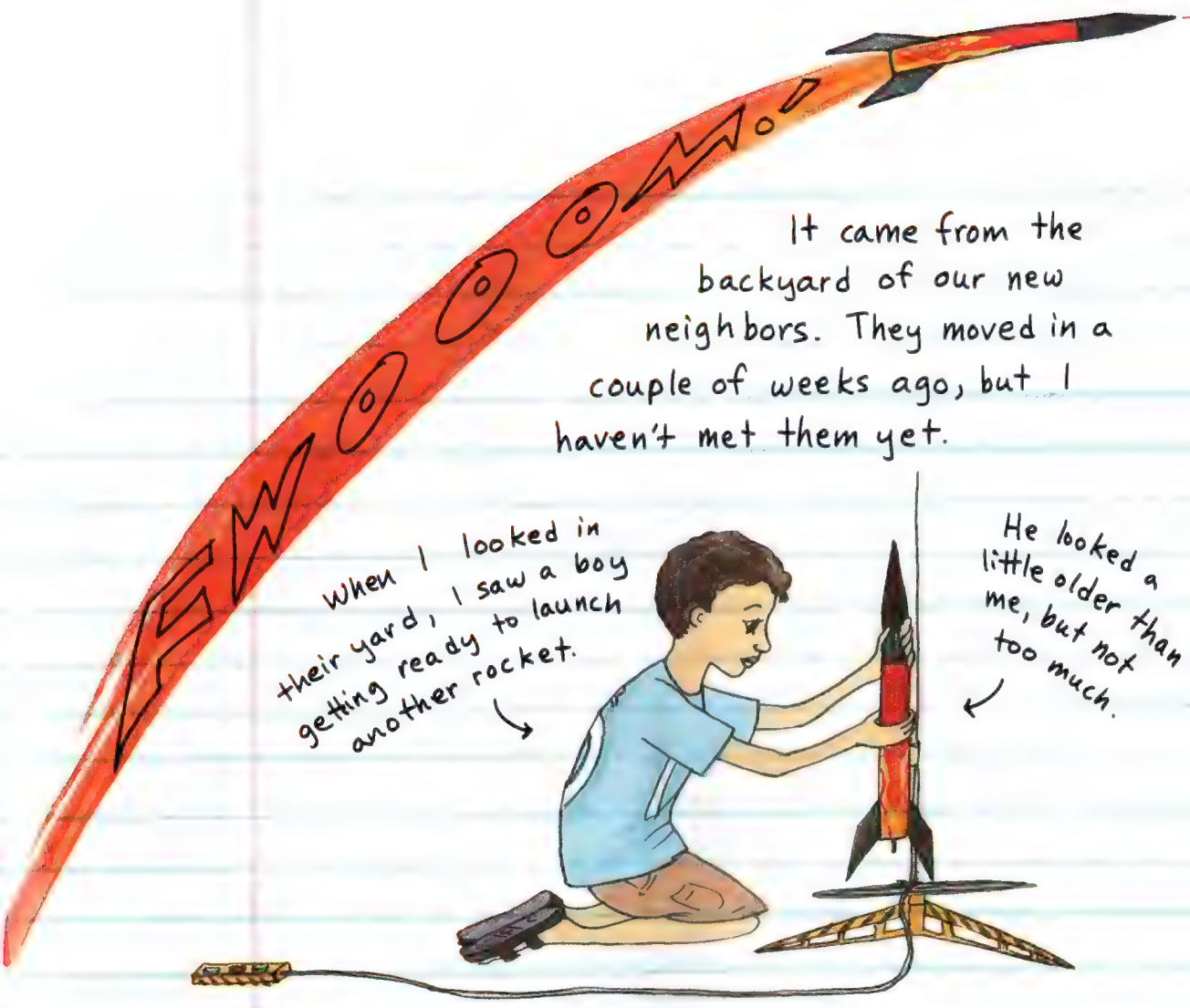
chirping birds

ice cracking in your glass of lemonade

Summer is my favorite time of year, because it's so peaceful and quiet. But today I was in the hammock, watching the clouds and feeling the breeze tickle my toes, when I heard a

and I saw a rocket — a little one, the kind I launched at Space Camp — soar way, way up.

To read the *whole* story of Amelia and her friend Enzo, check out the new book, *Amelia Lends a Hand.*



It came from the backyard of our new neighbors. They moved in a couple of weeks ago, but I haven't met them yet.

When I looked in their yard, I saw a boy getting ready to launch another rocket.

He looked a little older than me, but not too much.

"Hey!" I yelled. "Hi, I'm Amelia, your neighbor. Can I set off a rocket? I know how – I've done it before."

The boy didn't answer me. He didn't even turn to look at me. I thought he was rude, or he hated girls, or he was a snob. He looked nice, but he wasn't.

Then another boy came out of the house – I figured he was Rocket Boy's little brother. The brother ran over to Rocket Boy, tugged on his sleeve, and moved his hands a lot, all without saying a word. That's when I got it – the boy with the rocket wasn't being rude – he was deaf. He couldn't hear me yelling at him.

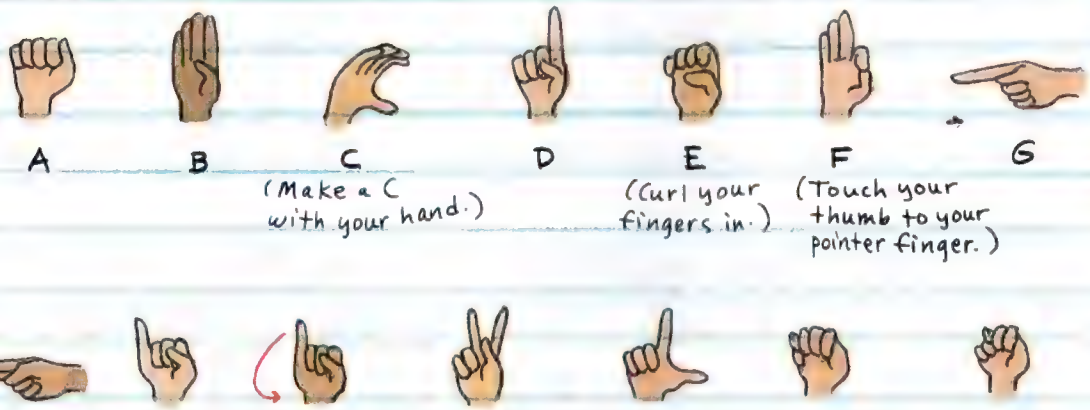
The two of them went inside, and I spent the rest of the day thinking of how I could become friends with the deaf boy when I can't talk to him. Anyone who shoots off rockets is my kind of friend — I can't let his being deaf get in the way of that.

↑ sign of finger-pointing

I went to the library and found a book on sign language, but it's a lot more complicated than I thought. There are signs for words and signs for the letters of the alphabet. I'm starting with the ABC's — that's already plenty to learn. If I get good at it, it will be like having a secret code. Cleo will never be able to eavesdrop on me and my new friend.

I'm drawing these with right hands because I'm right-handed, but if you're left-handed, you'd use your left hand to sign.

I'm trying to learn ASL, or American Sign Language. There are other sign languages (like signed English), but ASL is the one most deaf people in America use.



O (Make an O with your hand.)

P

Q (Like you're taking a pinch of something)

R (Cross your fingers.)

S

T (Wiggle the T to say toilet.)

U

V (Like Little Bunny Foo Foo)

W

X

Y

Z (Draw a Z with your pointer finger.)

You have to know the sign language alphabet so that when you don't know the sign for a word (or there isn't one – like for names), you can spell it out.

Today I got my chance to use sign language. I heard some noise from the Rutellis's yard, and, sure enough, the boy was there setting up his rockets. This time, I was prepared!

I threw a note folded into a paper airplane. It landed right at the boy's feet! He picked it up and read it, just like I'd hoped. Then he looked right at me— and smiled!

I knew he was nice!

He saluted me – that's how you say "Hi" in sign language. (I saw that in the book I checked out from the library.) I signed "Hi" back, but I didn't know what to sign after that.

The boy started signing words, but I couldn't understand ANYTHING! I shook my head, and he made a motion I could understand — he was telling me to come over, so I did.

First I got the rocket I brought home from Space Camp and then I climbed over the wall to show him. It would have taken me forever to spell out "launch the rocket," so I invented my own gestures to show what I meant.

Watch out! Thorny blackberries below!

Amelia's Made-Up Signs

jelly-roll nose— make a spiral with your pointer finger in front of your nose, then tap your nose

And he understood! Between spelling things out and the gestures I made up, we could talk to each other— well, not really, but close enough.

Enzo, introducing himself to me — that's his name, Enzo Rutelli.

lemon— pucker those lips!

We launched rockets all afternoon. Sometimes it was hard because I could only say about 2% of what I meant. Lucky for me, Enzo's really patient when I'm slow at spelling things out. When it got too hard for me to understand, Enzo's little brother, Carlo, helped me out. He translated for me. I felt kind of dumb having a seven-year-old explain things for me. But then Enzo gave me this note:

mind your own beeswax— express yourself with your fingers and tongue

DON'T WORRY — SIGNING GETS EASIER WITH PRACTICE. IF YOU LEARN HOW TO SIGN WORDS, NOT JUST SPELL THINGS, IT'LL BE BETTER.

cavegirl Amelia grunting, "me, Amelia, you, Enzo"

Sometimes I feel like I'm hiding behind Carlo because without him, I can't really talk to Enzo. How can I be a good friend if I can't communicate?

I want to say something funny or smart, but I end up saying "I like rockets" over and over because that's all I can say.

soft projectile

target for soft projectile

We went inside, and Enzo went to his desk and started drawing. He drew for so long, I threw a pillow at him to remind him I was there. When he turned around, he had a big smile.

Then he shook his head and gave me this!

Pull information from your brain!
Start with fingers and thumbs slightly apart, and pinch them together as you pull away from your head.

sign for "teach"

It's a sign language flash card — what a great way for me to learn sign language!

He's a good artist! I didn't know that about him.

I thought it was such a great idea, I wanted to make more cards. Together, we ended up making 150 cards today. I'd write down a word I wanted to learn, Enzo would sign it, and I drew the picture. Then we'd practice a few times with each card. I feel like I'm finally learning sign language! Soon Enzo and I will really be able to talk to each other — without notes or Carlo translating.

Some signs look like what they are — for "banana" you pretend to peel a banana.

And the great thing is that with signs, I don't have to worry about spelling! This is the sign for ~~wierd~~ ~~weird~~ ~~wierd~~ weird — the letters don't matter. I just have to make a face like I smell something strange.

Make your hand into a C, then drop it in front of your shoulder.

For "ice cream" you lick an imaginary cone.

I can't wait to learn "invent" and "dream" and "together." There are so many words I want to know! I have lots to say and so does Enzo. ★

sign for "thank you"

sign for "friend"

Amelia's Flash Cards

Practice your sign language by using Amelia's and Enzo's flash cards. Cut carefully along the dotted lines to remove the cards.

To test your sign language skills online, visit Amelia's Desktop at americangirl.com!

Touch your hand to your mouth, then slap it onto your other palm.

Clasp your hands together, and shake them over and over.

Make the letter V with one hand, and run the V up and down the palm of your other hand.

With your hand flat on your chest, rub in a circle.

Pull your hands straight down from your eyes.

Make a mouth with your first two fingers and thumb, and open and close it.

Pretend you're drawing a squiggly line on the palm of your hand, moving from wrist to fingertips.

Touch your nose with your first two fingers, then tap the two fingers of your other hand.

Brush your open hand up on your chest.

READ

con-
grat-
ulations
!

GOOD

NO!

sad

please

HAPPY

FUN

write

Amelia says:

Jump Start!

How does a **regular kid** become a rising **pop star?** What's it like to hear yourself on the **radio?** How does it feel to open the show for celebs like **Aaron Carter** and the **A*Teens?** AG talked to 13-year-old **Brittany Hargest** from the new group **Jump5** to find out.

Making Music

All her life, Brittany has loved to dance and sing. She started small. The Tennessee girl took her first voice lesson when she was five years old and her first dance class when she was only three! A longtime competitive dancer, Brittany has even performed in shows at Opryland theme park. But being a part of Jump5—along with her brother Brandon, Chris Fedun, Libby Hodges, and Lesley Moore—is definitely her biggest break yet.

Brandon, Libby, Brittany, Lesley, and Chris (from left) take the stage!

AG: Have you always been a musical kid?

Brittany: I loved singing myself, but I wasn't always a huge fan of music.

What was your Jump5 audition like?

My brother Brandon and I went to the audition together. They held the auditions in the choir room at a local church. A couple hundred kids were trying out. I was a little nervous, because I didn't know what was going to happen.

What did you perform at your tryout?

I sang "Over the Rainbow." I got started too high, and then I couldn't reach the high notes. It was awful! After that I had to sing harmony—I love to harmonize—and do a dance. When Brandon and I found out that we both made it into the group, we couldn't believe it. I think they picked me because I can dance.

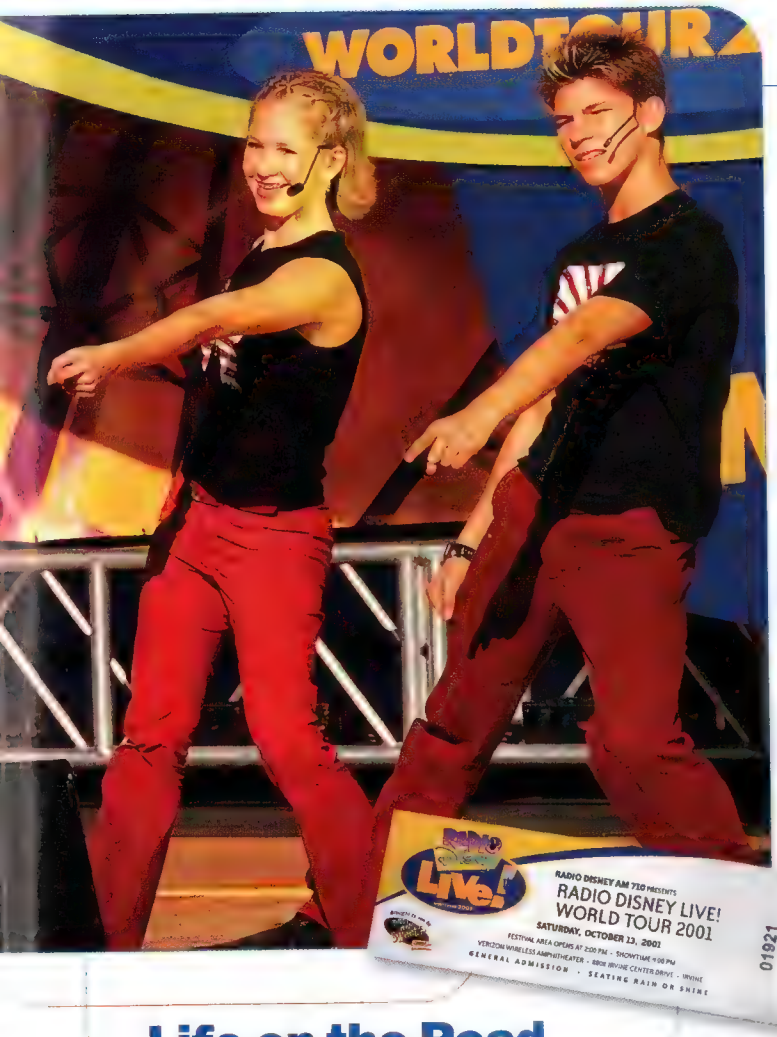
How do you learn the cool flips and jumps that are a part of Jump5's dance routines?

We've all been dancing and doing gymnastics since we were little. But the record company hired a Los Angeles choreographer to come in and create moves for some of our songs. She has worked with Janet Jackson!

Do you have a favorite Jump5 song?

I really like the song "Wish That I Could Read Your Mind," because I think kids can relate to it. It's about wishing that you could understand what everybody else thinks of you.

Go to jump5.com to listen to the group's latest songs.



Life on the Road

Last fall, Jump5 performed on the Radio Disney Live! tour, opening the show for stars like Aaron Carter. On the road, Brittany never had a moment to spare.

How did you make up for all the school you missed?

We have a tutor who travels with us. She's a lot of fun and very relaxed. On the road, we studied everywhere—in the car, at the hotel, at the airport, on the airplane—everywhere!

What did you miss the most while you were away from home?

I really missed my parents and my dogs, Kibbles and Jumper. (We got Jumper the day our CD came out—that's how he got his name!) I missed my mom's steaks and mashed potatoes, too. She makes the greatest steaks. And I really missed sleeping in my own bed.

Was there anything that you *didn't* miss?

I didn't miss cleaning the pool after my dad mows the lawn. I hate doing that!

How did you keep in touch with your friends from home?

One of our managers would let us use his computer to talk to our friends on the Internet. So I did a lot of instant messaging. Or I'd call my friends on the phone, just to say "Hi!"

Get Ready, Get Set...

Even when they weren't onstage, Jump5 worked hard to put on a great show week after week.

"Doing my hair before shows takes forever," says Brittany.

The group runs through their songs one last time at the sound check.

Before heading onstage, Brittany gives her autograph to a fan.

Photos: Edward Carreon

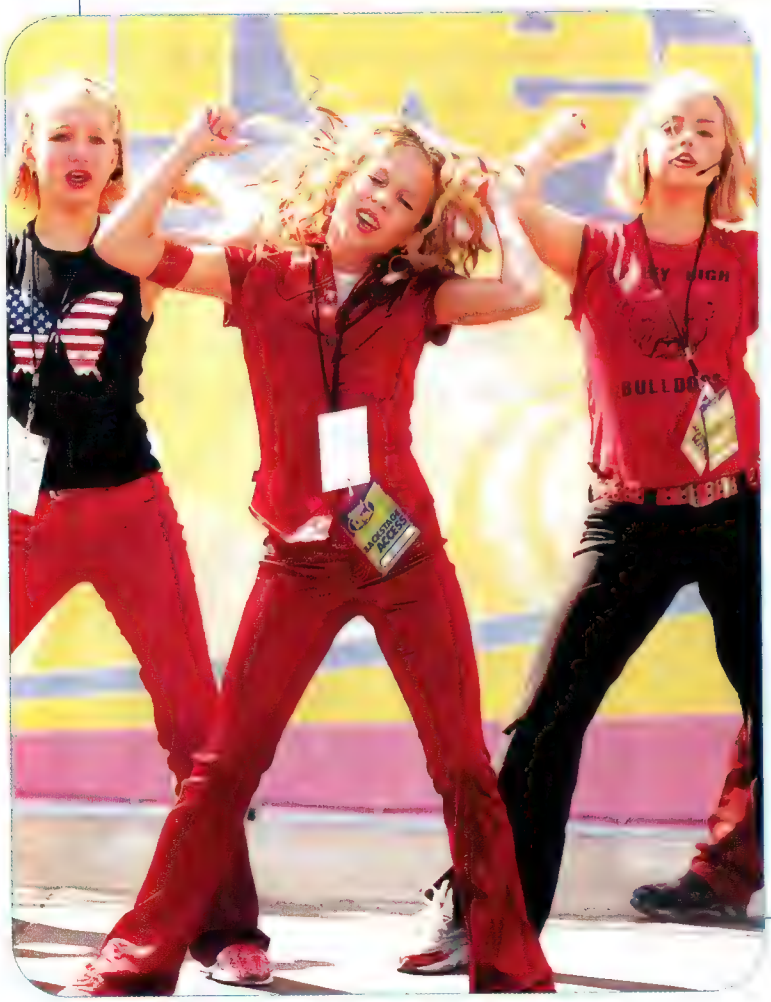
What happened the first time you heard a Jump5 song on the radio?

On tour, the kids visited local radio stations to promote their shows.

We were driving to our hotel late one night when we first heard our song. I screamed and sang out loud at the top of my lungs! The car was literally shaking because we were bouncing so much. We were *so* happy.

What were some of the perks of the tour?

One of the coolest things was getting to keep all the clothes we wore. We have lots of cool clothes. Our outfits go together, but they reflect each person's individual style, too.



It sounds like you and the other Jump5 kids spent nearly all your time together. Do you all get along?

Oh yeah! We have a lot in common. Our personalities are pretty much the same. It's great to have a bunch of friends who are always there for you.

The Time of Their Lives

Brittany and the rest of Jump5 agree that performing on the Radio Disney tour was probably the most fun they'd ever had.

Does anyone in Jump5 have stage fright?

No one gets scared or nervous. I think it's because we love to perform so much. It's just such a rush!

What was the first Radio Disney show like?

The day of our first show, we got up and it was pouring rain. We were supposed to perform outside. Then we found out that if it was still raining at show time, the opening acts would perform on the main stage, under the pavilion roof. We started to pray for more rain. Shame on us! But it worked. It kept raining, and we got to perform on the main stage. It was great, singing in front of all those kids. After our songs, we went backstage to watch Hoku, Baha Men, and the A*Teens. It was a good show.

Jump5 and the Radio Disney stars finish up a great show.

What was it like to meet Aaron Carter?

When I first met him, I had chocolate on my chin, and nobody told me until afterward. That was embarrassing! But he was nice. He's really talented, and it was fun meeting him.

Do you have a favorite performance from the tour?

Toward the end, we got to open a main-stage show by singing "God Bless the U.S.A." That was great! I really hated for the tour to end, but it was a nice way to finish up.

What's up next for Jump5?

We just got the chance to record a pop version of the song "Beauty and the Beast" for the DVD of the movie.

Jump5 poses for a picture with a smiling fan.

Do you feel famous?

At some shows, there were people with posters for Jump5. It feels good to look out in the crowd and see signs cheering for you. But we don't think we're famous! It's hard to believe that we would be anything close to famous. We think of ourselves as normal kids. We *are* normal kids! ★

Fun Facts

Still not convinced that Jump5's stars are ordinary kids? Read on!

Brittany: I can hang a spoon off my nose.
Chris: I love writing, and I'm a good runner.
Brandon: I can make my hair look like a wig.

Chris: Vanilla.
Brandon: Mint chocolate chip.
Brittany, Lesley, and Libby: Chocolate chip cookie dough!

Libby: I am the late one.
Lesley: My worst habit is slouching over. My dance teacher makes me wear a hanger over my shoulders to hold them back!
Brittany: Being loud. And looking at myself in the mirror too much.

You can write to Brittany and the rest of the group at this address:

Jump5
P.O. Box 150867
Nashville, TN 37215

Sleepover

Stock Up!

Be prepared for the fun that's in store—get ready for guests with goodies galore!

All-Time Favorites

Have plenty of these classic sleepover items on hand:

- **Videos**
- **Magazines**
- **Hairbrushes**
- **Hair gel, spray, and glitter**
- **Big curlers**
- **i-Zone camera and film**
- **Spare toothbrush (in case someone forgets hers!)**

Bring the Fun!

Ask guests to bring these things to your sleepover as fun party starters:

Baby pictures—Lay the baby pictures on a table and place a number next to each one. Give each girl a piece of paper and have her guess who's who. See who can guess the most correctly!

Favorite CD—Play songs from everyone's CDs and dance the night away.

Nail polish—Paint each other's fingernails with all the different colors.

Round-Up!

Show Up!

Your guests arrive and excitement is high, so give these fun-filled activities a try!

Who Am I?

As each guest arrives, pin the name of a celebrity on her back. Everyone should walk around and try to guess who she is by asking the other girls questions. You can ask only "yes" or "no" questions. For example, "Am I a singer?" or, "Do I have brown hair?"

Did You Know?

Pass out the slips of paper at the end of the "Slumber Party Memories" book. Have each girl write a silly thing that no one knows about her. Read the slips aloud and guess who wrote what!

Fill Up!

What's a party without snacks and treats? Your guests will love these tasty eats!

Wonder Bar

Set up a scrumptious snack bar for guests. Here are a few party favorites:

Sundae bar—Crush candy bars and cookies to use as toppings. Also include sliced fresh and dried fruit, assorted syrups, and whipped cream.

Cereal bar—Have each guest bring a mini box of cereal and set up a smorgasbord!

Popcorn bar—Give each girl a bowl of popcorn with melted butter on top. Set out dishes with various toppings so that everyone can jazz up her popcorn to her liking! Try these tasty toppings:

- Ranch dressing powder
- Cinnamon and sugar
- Pizza seasoning and parmesan cheese
- Chocolate-milk flavoring powder

Pizza bar—Set out bowls filled with all of your favorite toppings. Include a unique topping like pineapple. Have each girl put her favorite toppings on a portion of a frozen cheese pizza. Have Mom bake the pizza for you!

Girls' Night Out

Have Mom or Dad take you out for ice cream or to the drive-through in your pj's!

Taste Test

Fill several bowls with different types of cereal. Blindfold each girl and have her guess which cereal she is tasting. Whoever gets the most correct wins! Crush the leftover cereal for sundae toppings.

Stay Up!

Don't fall asleep—the night's just begun! Play these games and have some fun.

I want to be a professional juggler when I grow up!

Truth or...Not?

Give each girl paper and a pencil. Choose one girl to be It. It begins by stating something about herself, such as, "I wear the same pair of socks every Monday." Each girl writes down whether she thinks the statement is true or false. Then, It reveals the answer. Give one point for each correct guess. If no one guessed correctly, It gets a point. The girl with the most points at the end gets to choose the movie.

Surprise Salon

Blindfold a girl. While she is blindfolded, the other girls give her a manicure—paint her nails and decorate them with nail decals or nail jewels. When finished, remove the blindfold so that she can see her beautiful nails. Repeat until each girl gets a beauty treatment. Try this game with hairstyles, too!

Twirl the Girl

Write "yes," "no," and "maybe so" on slips of paper and put them in a bowl. Sit in a circle with one girl standing in the middle. Have each sitting girl pick a slip of paper. The girl in the middle twirls around with her eyes closed. When she stops, she asks a question. For example, "Will I get a puppy for my birthday?" She opens her eyes. The girl sitting directly in front of her opens her slip of paper and reads the answer. That girl then moves to the center, and the game starts over. Pick new slips each time. Good luck!

Kids can have sleepovers at some FAO Schwarz toy stores—for a whopping $17,500 a night!

Picture Perfect

Have an i-Zone camera on hand so that you can catch all of the silly sleepover moments on film. Put the photos in your new Slumber Party Memories book!

Goofy Games

We asked girls to review some great board games. Here's what they said:

Blurt

"This game was fun and easy to play, but tough to win. I was a space away from winning when the 'takeover' card came up—I had to switch places with someone who was at the start of the game!"

★★★★☆

Kelsey C.
Age 12, California

Cranium Cadoo

"I liked how you had to do a variety of things, like sculpt, draw, and act. I had to make an octopus out of clay. No one could tell what it was! We laughed a lot!"

★★★★☆

Laura K.
Age 11, Illinois

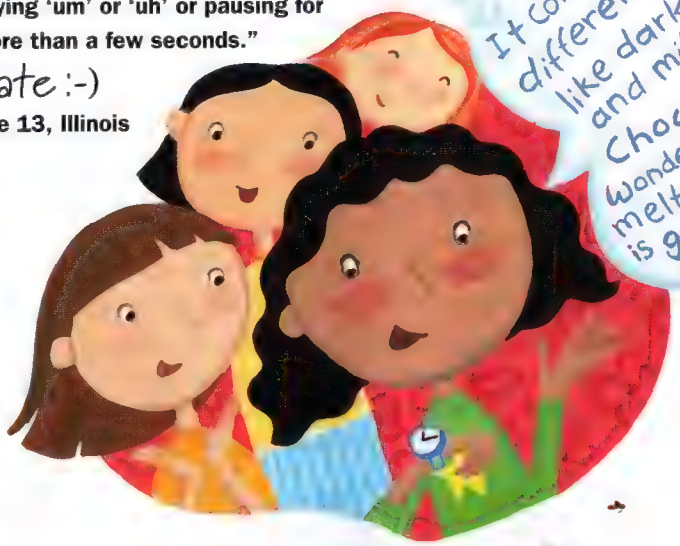
Rotating Scrapbook

Take an i-Zone photo of each girl and have her attach her photo to a scrapbook page. Sitting around a table, have everyone pass her page to the person on her left. Each girl decorates the page and writes nice things about that girl. After five minutes everyone passes her page again. Continue passing the pages around until each girl has her own page back. Everyone will go home with great memories of the party!

Um, Uh

"Pick one person and give her a topic—for example, chocolate. That person has to talk about that subject for 30 seconds without saying 'um' or 'uh' or pausing for more than a few seconds."

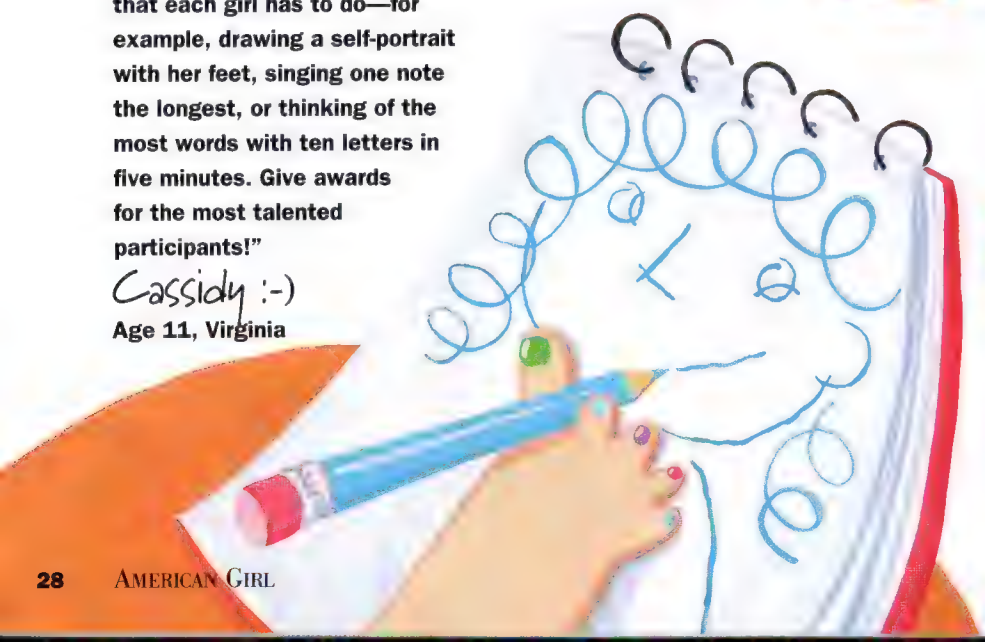
Kate :-)
Age 13, Illinois


Chocolate is derived from the cocoa bean. It comes in many different varieties, like dark, semisweet, and milk chocolate. Chocolate is a wonderful, sweet, melty treat and is great in cookies, cakes, hot cocoa,...

Silly Talent

"Think of something really silly that each girl has to do—for example, drawing a self-portrait with her feet, singing one note the longest, or thinking of the most words with ten letters in five minutes. Give awards for the most talented participants!"

Cassidy :-)
Age 11, Virginia



Early Bird

Make bets on who will fall asleep first and who will wake up first. Give prizes to the girls who guess correctly.

Illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi

Wake Up!

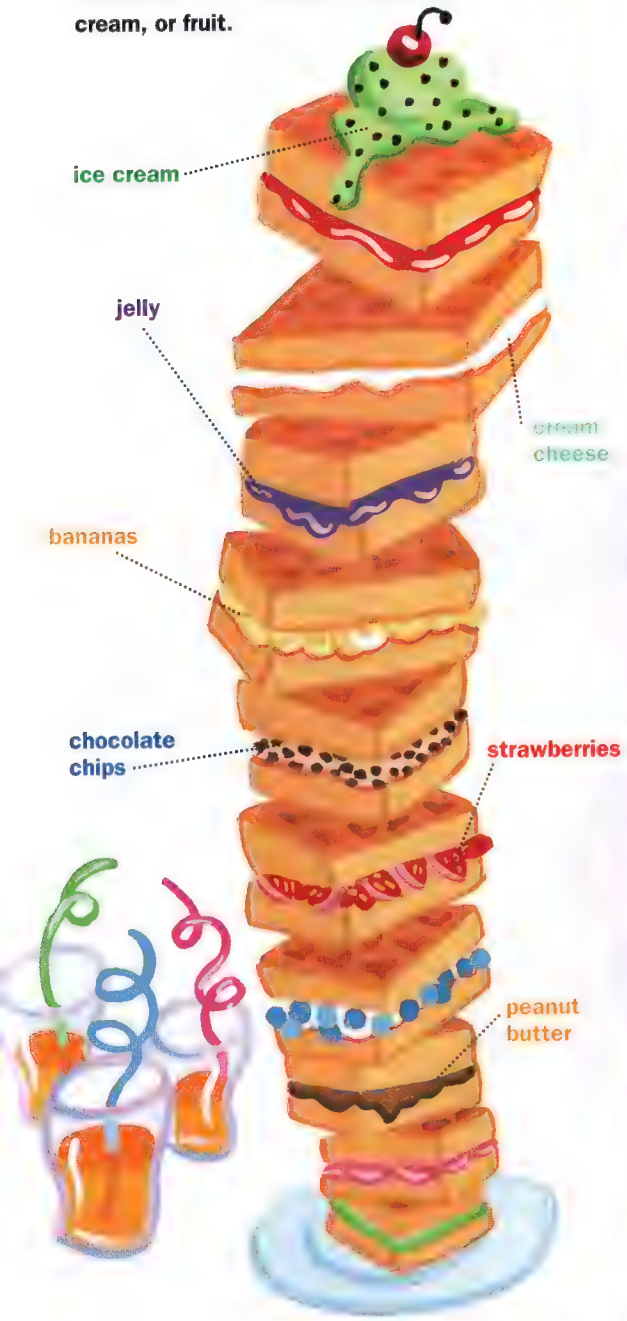
The sun is shining. It's time to rise.
Stretch your arms and open your eyes!

Dreamin'

When you all wake up, talk about any dreams you had. See whose dream is the silliest or the scariest.

Rise and Dine!

Make waffle sandwiches! Toast frozen waffles and add peanut butter, jelly, cream cheese, chocolate chips, ice cream, or fruit.



Wacky Sleepovers

Imagine getting your Z's at a zoo or slumbering by a saber-toothed cat! We talked to girls who got to experience some wild sleepovers.

Cotoctin Zoo, Maryland

"When we arrived at the zoo we took a night tour. We walked around with flashlights. Then we ate pizza in the reptile room. We slept in a room with a nocturnal chinchilla who kept us awake all night rattling his cage!"

Laura S.
Age 9, Pennsylvania

Aquarium of the Pacific, California

"We slept right next to the otter exhibit. I only got a few hours of sleep because the sound of the otters splashing in the water kept me awake. In the morning we got to feed breakfast to the otters—shrimp!"

Lana G.
Age 11, California

Museum of Natural History, California

"I've slept overnight at the museum five times! Last time, I slept right next to a saber-toothed cat skeleton. Luckily, I didn't have any strange dreams. Every time I sleep over at the museum I learn a lot about different topics, like animals that live in the rain forests or the Ice Age."

Amber T.
Age 11, California

Call your local museum or zoo to see if they offer sleepovers. Sometimes libraries also have slumber parties. Sweet dreams!

For more group games you can play at your sleepover, check out americangirl.com and click on "To Do Today."

Craft

Clearly Colorful

Give Mom a hand-painted gift designed by you!

YOU WILL NEED

- Glass jars or bottles (check the recycle bin!)
- Non-acetone nail polish remover
- Cotton balls
- Black puff paint*
- Piece of paper
- Paper towel
- Old towel
- Acrylic glass paint (squeezable works best)
- Acrylic paint

*Note: Puff paint is *not* dishwasher safe. If necessary, wash gently with cool water.

Photos: Mike McKenzie/Hot Shots

Tip: Paint the lids of jars with acrylic paint and decorate with puff paint.

1 Clean the glass surface by soaking jar in warm water. Use a cotton ball and nail polish remover to remove stubborn labels.

2 Practice squeezing puff paint design on a sheet of paper. Then, squeeze puff paint outlines onto the glass. Use a wet paper towel to remove mistakes. Create simple designs and leave open spaces for glass paint. Let dry completely (at least 1 hour).

3 Prop glass jar on its side in an old towel to prevent the jar from rolling. Fill in designs with glass paint. Let glass paint dry about 1 hour. Rotate glass and continue filling entire design.

Gift Ideas

- Fill a jar with paper clips—perfect for Mom's desk.
- Put pens and pencils in the jar. Include a package of Post-it notes and give them to Mom for jotting down reminders.
- Fill a jar with candies and tell Mom how sweet she is. ★

Are You Two

Quiz

Take this quiz with your best bud to find

1. If your friend could pick her own first name, she'd call herself

Sheabe.

You'd choose to go by

Celeste.

2. When she grows up, your friend wants to be a

human rights worker.

You picture yourself as a

designer.

3. Your friend's room usually looks like it's just been visited by...

a. a maid.

b. a tornado.

What about your room?

Maid

4. Would your friend rather snack on a chocolate cupcake or a tub of popcorn?

chocolat Chocolat cupcake

Which treat would you take?

Same

5. At the video store, your friend would probably rent...

a. *Spy Kids.*

b. *Babe.*

c. *The Princess Diaries.*

Which flick would you pick?

c. c.

6. Would your friend rather be the oldest child, the youngest child, or an only child?

youngest

Which spot would you choose?

—

7. Your friend would like to work on her science fair project...

a. with a group.

b. by herself.

How do you like to work?

group

8. At your school's spring fling, your friend spends her time...

a. showing off moves on the dance floor.

b. catching up on gossip by the punch bowl.

c. working up the courage to ask a boy to dance.

What would you do?

b.

9. Which ice cream flavor is most like your friend?

a. Rocky Road—once you get past the hard stuff, the rest is sweet!

b. Vanilla—it's not flashy, but it never goes out of style.

c. Rainbow Sherbet—it's always fun and colorful.

Which flavor fits you?

a.

10. Your friend's most afraid of

— —

You're most afraid of

— water

11. What is your friend's good-luck charm?

— piggy bank

What's yours?

evil eye bracelet

12. Have you or your friend ever...

dived off a high dive?

Your friend: yes yes You: no

changed a diaper?

Your friend: yes no You: no

traveled outside the United States?

Your friend: — You: —

kept a diary for at least three months straight? no

Your friend: yes You: no

# of a Kind?

out how well you really know each other.

1. If your friend could pick her own first name, she'd call herself

Helen Celeste.

You'd choose to go by

Aine. Phoebe or Gwen

2. When she grows up, your friend wants to be a

Interior Designer. ←

You picture yourself as a

Human Rights Lawyer. No Clue

3. Your friend's room usually looks like it's just been visited by...

(a.) a maid. ←

b. a tornado.

What about your room?

a. b

4. Would your friend rather snack on a chocolate cupcake or a tub of popcorn?

Chocolate cupcake.

Which treat would you take?

Chocolate Cup-cake ←

5. At the video store, your friend would probably rent...

a. *Spy Kids.*

b. *Babe.*

(c.) *The Princess Diaries.* ←

Which flick would you pick?

Princess Diaries. ←

6. Would your friend rather be the oldest child, the youngest child, or an only child?

Only child

Which spot would you choose?

Oldest . middle?

7. Your friend would like to work on her science fair project...

(a.) with a group. ←

b. by herself.

How do you like to work?

a. b

8. At your school's spring fling, your friend spends her time...

a. showing off moves on the dance floor.

(b.) catching up on gossip by the punch bowl. ←

c. working up the courage to ask a boy to dance.

What would you do?

a. a or c

9. Which ice cream flavor is most like your friend?

a. Rocky Road—once you get past the hard stuff, the rest is sweet! ←

b. Vanilla—it's not flashy, but it never goes out of style.

(c.) Rainbow Sherbet—it's always fun and colorful.

Which flavor fits you?

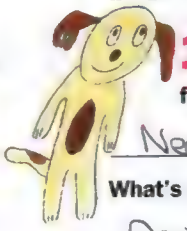
b. a or c

10. Your friend's most afraid of

Math. ?

You're most afraid of

Ferrets. sort of spiders (if they're big)



11. What is your friend's good-luck charm?

Necklace (From an Egyptian boy?).

What's yours?

Anklet . Piggiepac

12. Have you or your friend ever...

dived off a high dive?

Your friend: no ← You: no yes

changed a diaper?

Your friend: no ← You: yes. no

traveled outside the United States?

Your friend: yes ← You: Yes. yes

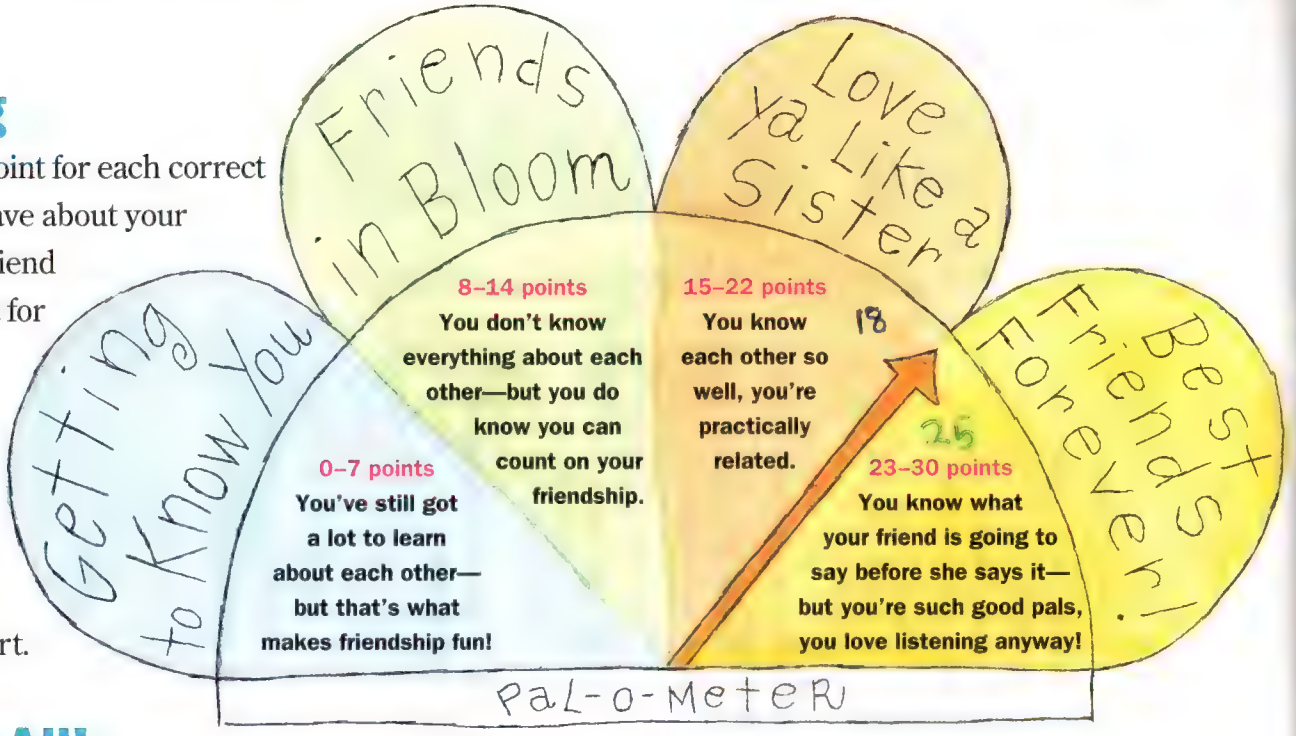
kept a diary for at least three months straight?

Your friend: no ← You: no

Sitting head-to-head with a close friend, answer each question about your friend and about yourself. Have your friend do the same. Then turn the page to find out how your friendship rates!

Scoring

You get one point for each correct answer you gave about your friend. Your friend gets one point for each correct answer she gave about you. Add your scores together, and check the chart.


Getting to Know You
Friends in Bloom
Love ya Like a Sister
Best Friends Forever!
Pal-o-Meter
18
25
0–7 points
You've still got a lot to learn about each other—but that's what makes friendship fun!
8–14 points
You don't know everything about each other—but you do know you can count on your friendship.
15–22 points
You know each other so well, you're practically related.
23–30 points
You know what your friend is going to say before she says it—but you're such good pals, you love listening anyway!

Fun-for-All!

These fun activities can help you get to know any buddy better!

Have a compliment race. See how many nice things you can say about your friend in 60 seconds. Then count how many nice things your friend can say about you in the same amount of time. Whoever gives the most compliments is the winner!

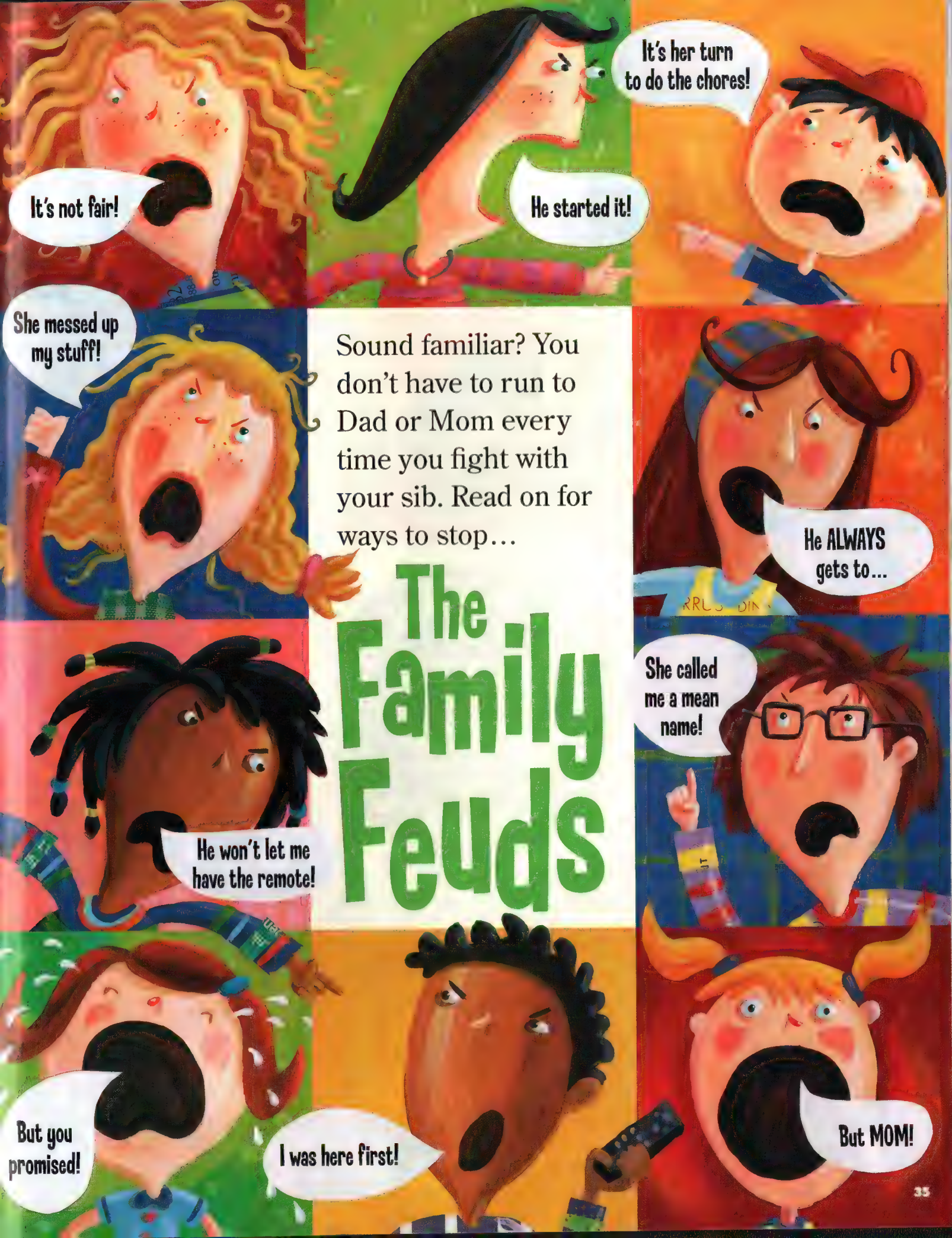
Try drawing your friend—and have her draw you—without picking your pencils up off the paper. Or put on blindfolds and then draw each other. Compare your pictures to see whose is the funniest!

Sit with your back to your friend, and open a magazine to a random page. Describe the first picture you see, and tell your friend to draw what you describe. Your friend can't ask you any questions, and you can't look at her drawing. You have a minute to describe and draw. When time's up, see how close your friend came to the original picture, and then switch places.

Take your friend on a pretend shopping spree. Get a bunch of catalogues, and "spend" $1,000 on your friend. Have her do the same for you. Then tell her what you picked out for her, and find out what she bought for you.

Check out more quizzes like this one at americangirl.com!

Illustrations: Beth O'Grady

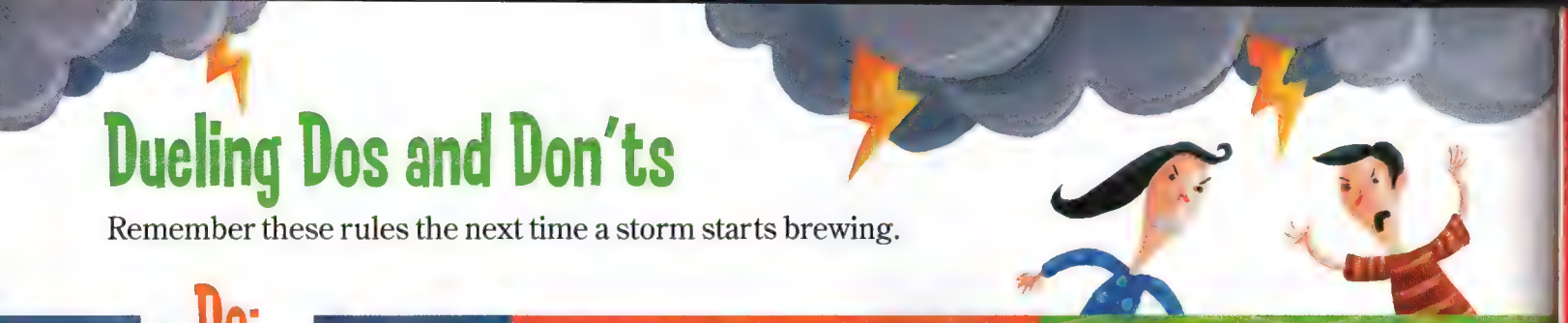

It's not fair!
He started it!
It's her turn to do the chores!
She messed up my stuff!
He ALWAYS gets to...
He won't let me have the remote!
She called me a mean name!
But you promised!
I was here first!
But MOM!

Sound familiar? You don't have to run to Dad or Mom every time you fight with your sib. Read on for ways to stop…

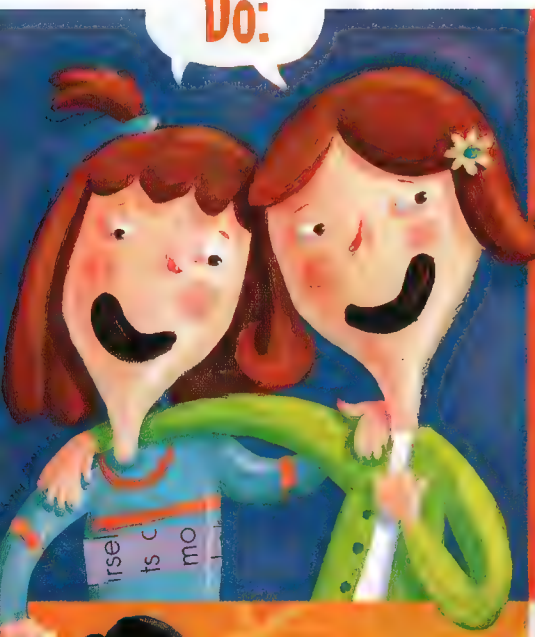
The Family Feuds

Dueling Dos and Don'ts

Remember these rules the next time a storm starts brewing.



Do:



Decide not to fight.

Remember, it takes two to tangle. The next time your sibling pesters you, try to ignore it. Chances are, your gadfly will buzz off.

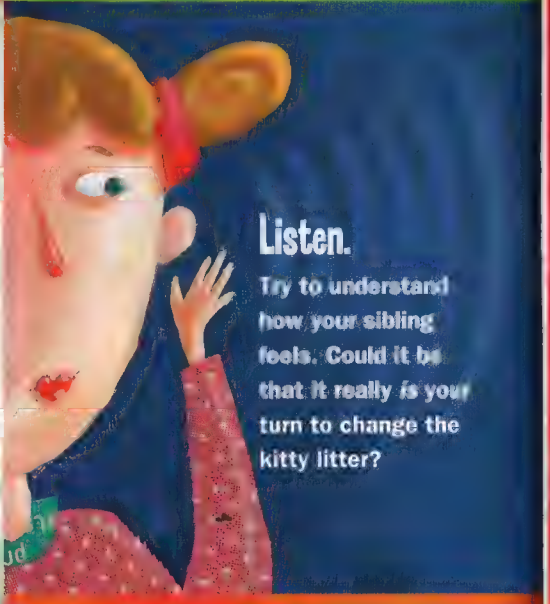
Stick to the subject.

Don't bring up how your sib's a snoop when you're arguing over who gets to surf the Net.

Play "Let's Make a Deal."

You're watching TV when your sibling switches channels. Don't whine—negotiate! Say, "I'm watching this show, but you can pick the next one." Strike a bargain, and save the arguing.

Be a broken record. Be a broken record. Be a broken record.
Your sib won't quit? Keep repeating your point of view. Say, "I know you like to borrow my clothes without asking, but I don't want you to." Say it again. And again. And again...



Listen.

Try to understand how your sibling feels. Could it be that it really *is* your turn to change the kitty litter?

Find out what's fueling the feud.

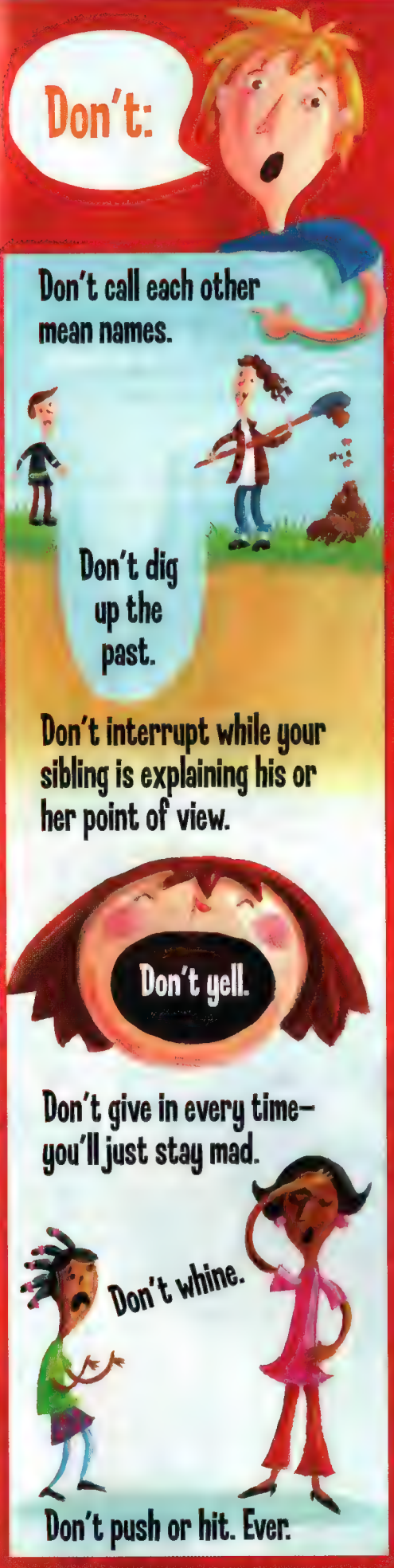
Maybe your fight has more to do with one or both of you being hungry, tired, or in a bad mood.

Take a break.

When all else fails, walk away. Do something alone that you enjoy, and come back when you're ready to talk.

Get help when you need it.

If things are getting out of control or you feel unsafe, get Mom or Dad.


Don't:
Don't call each other mean names.
Don't dig up the past.
Don't interrupt while your sibling is explaining his or her point of view.
Don't yell.
Don't give in every time—you'll just stay mad.
Don't whine.
Don't push or hit. Ever.

Star Stories

Famous siblings share their mad moments.

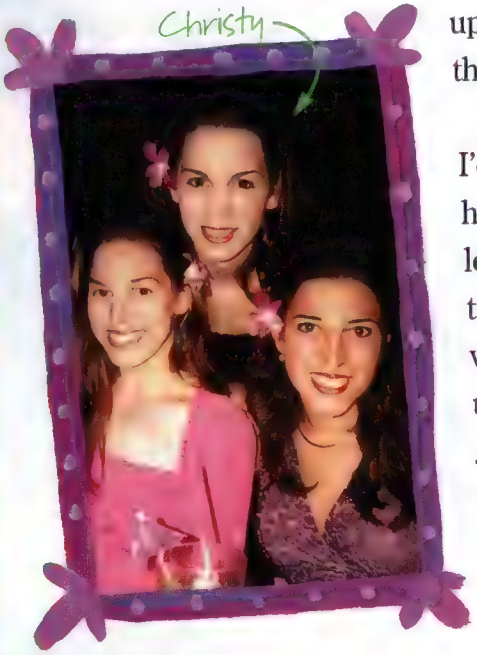
Oh, Brother!

"When I was younger and Nick had just joined the Backstreet Boys, I used to be so jealous of him. I wanted to be singing and dancing, too! During rehearsals I would jump on-stage, steal a microphone, and dance. I drove the guys crazy! Since then, Nick has been really supportive of my career. He's always there to give me advice and just to be my big brother. It's hard because we don't get to see each other all that often, but when we do, it's like we were never apart."

–Aaron Carter

Oh, Sister!

"I was visiting my older sister Jennifer in college when her ex-boyfriend called. I was trying to help out, so I answered the phone—only I thought it was her *new* boyfriend, and I called him the wrong name. This happened four times! Jennifer got upset and said, 'Why can't you think before you talk?'



"I apologized and told her I'd try to make sure it never happened again. Before I left, I wrote her a poem and told her that I loved her. We worked it out, and it brought us closer together."

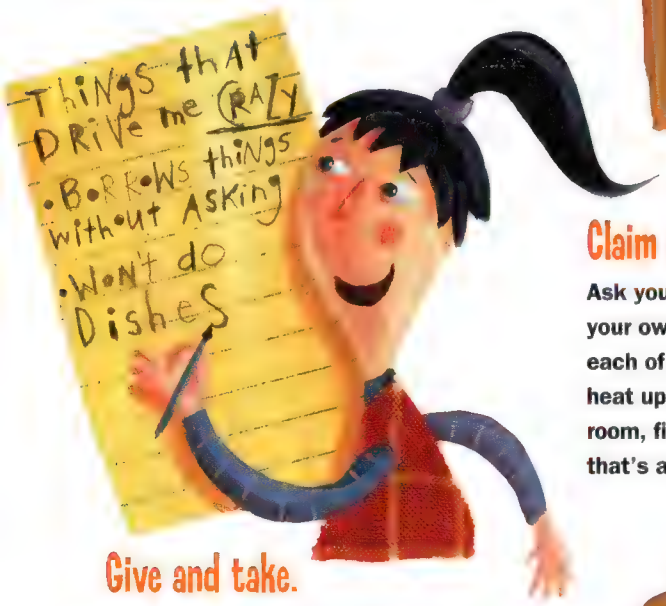
–Christy Carlson Romano (Ren on *Even Stevens*)

Are Fights in Your Future?

For sunnier days ahead, try these tips when you're both calm.

Make a list and check it twice.

Have each of you write down your sibling pet peeves. Does your brother wake you up at dawn? Do you always put the cereal box away empty? Is your sister constantly losing your hair things? Write it all down, then share your lists. When it's your sibling's turn to talk about you, *listen.* Ask yourself, "Is this something I can change?" If it is, do it.



Give and take.

Sit down together to dream up ways you can settle the things you fight about the most. Look for ways you can compromise. That's where you both give a little—but you both get some of what you want, too.

Claim some space.

Ask your parents to help you establish your own private space—a place where each of you can cool down when things heat up. If you and your sibling share a room, find some other place in the house that's all yours.

Get it in writing.

Things are always clearer when they're in black and white. Do you fight over who gets to go online first after school? Make up a schedule, and write it down.

Spend more time together.

It sounds crazy, but the more time a family spends together, the less siblings fight. Ask your parents to help you plan some fun family activities—especially ones that get you moving outdoors.

Think about it.

When the going gets tough, take some time out to think about what you *like* about your sib. You may decide he or she isn't so bad after all!

Advice from You

"When my brother Max and I get into fights and have to go to our rooms, we play the Sorry Game. One of us sends the other a note, and then that person sends a note back with a piece of candy, a sticker, or an eraser. We keep going back and forth. Sometimes when my mom says we can come out, we say, 'No way!' We're always friends afterward."

Juli Anna J.
Age 11, California

"Sometimes we don't fight at all, but when we do, it's almost always over clothes. When it gets to the point that we know we're going to get into trouble, we play Rock, Paper, Scissors. Whoever wins gets to wear the clothes."

Kelsey B. Riley B.
Age 13, Florida

"If you don't want your little brother or sister snooping in your room, set boundary lines where he or she has your permission to go. When we were younger, my sister Amy could get a magazine from my closet, but she couldn't touch my glass decorations. It worked for us!"

Rachel H.
Age 13, Minnesota

Small-Screen Sibs

AG readers gave us the scoop on TV brothers and sisters.

TV sisters I'd most like to share clothes with: (This one's a tie!)

Lizzie McGuire

The Olsens

Best at keeping secrets:
Ren Stevens
(Even Stevens)

Peskiest brother:
Matt McGuire
(Lizzie McGuire)

Most realistic TV sibs: The Camdens *(7th Heaven)*

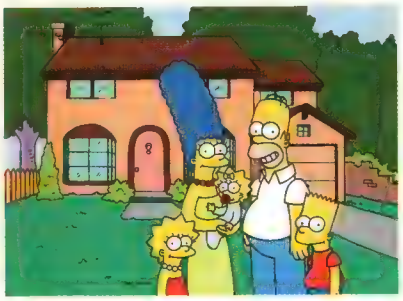
Most unrealistic TV sibs: The Brady Bunch

Best big brother:
Matt Camden
(7th Heaven)

Best big sister:
Ren Stevens
(Even Stevens)

Best little brother:
Simon Camden
(7th Heaven)

Best little sister:
Cindy Brady
(The Brady Bunch)



© 1999/FOX

Family I'd never join: The Simpsons

Family I'd love to join: The Brady Bunch ★

Illustrations: Laura Huliska-Beith; Photos: Getty Images; Page 2.

A hamster, a fish, or even a poodle—grab a pen and

Choose a Doodle

Hank the Hamster

1. Draw a small bumpy oval.

2. Add two bumps for ears, and two rounded W's for feet.

3. Draw a face and front paws. Draw a box around him for his home. Hi, cutie!

Francine the Fish

1. Draw a sideways curvy U.

2. Add wiggly lines for the tail and fins. Add a face.

3. Draw a big curvy U around the fish. Draw a straight line across the top. Add plants, waves, and bubbles. Bloop bloop!

Bartholomew the Bird

1. Draw an oval with dented sides.

2. Add two curved lines for wings, and two pointy W's for feet. Draw a face.

3. Draw a big T for the stand. Add feathers on top and a tail. Who's a pretty bird?

Cassandra the Cat

Penelope the Pooch

1. Draw a small, a medium, and a large cloud.

2. Draw a curvy point and four J's.

3. Add a heart for a nose. Draw an eye, ear, mouth, and tail. Woof woof!

Daphne the Dog

1. Draw a bumpy U for the body. Add ears.

2. Draw two dots for eyes, and a sideways oval for a nose. Draw a smile and a tongue.

3. Draw a bow on top, and add a curl. Add a tail and curvy W's for feet. Yip, yip!

Tip: To make a puppy, just draw everything smaller!

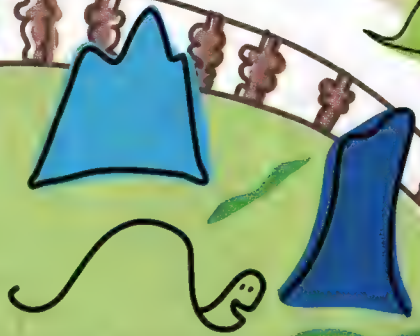
1. Draw an oval with two points on top.

2. Draw two small ovals for feet. Add two curving lines for the body.

3. Add a face, stripes, toes, and a tail. Purrr!

Tim the Turtle

1. Draw an upside-down curvy U.



2. Draw a sideways raindrop with a notch in it for the head. Add eyes.

3. Draw two rectangles for legs. Connect them with a straight line under the shell. Add stripes. Toodle-oo!

Illustrations: Sarajo Frieden

The Giggle Gang

Steal the Scene!

These pictures may look exactly alike, but they're not. At least 20 things that appear in the left picture are missing from the right picture. Try to find them all. Then turn to page 44 to test your memory by answering questions about the scenes.

All answers on page 44.

What's harder to catch the faster you run? Your breath. MaryAnn F. Age 12, Maine

How many feet are in a yard? That depends on how many people are standing in it! Sara E. Age 12, Massachusetts

Where do baseball players go to wash their dirty socks? The bleachers! Lauren S. :-) Age 13

What did the computer say to the mouse?

More Math Magic

Amaze your friends with this number trick!

1. Ask a person to silently pick a number between 1 and 10.

2. Tell the person to multiply the number by 9, add the digits of the answer together, and then subtract 5 from the total.

3. Tell the person to write down the new number on a piece of paper and fold it up.

4. Take the folded piece of paper and hold it to your forehead, pretending you're trying to concentrate on the number. Then say, "The number you wrote down is 4!" You'll be right—no matter what number the person started with, the solution is always 4.

Rhyme-o-Rama

Each of the three-word nonsense phrases below rhymes with a well-known three-word phrase. Figure out each phrase's rhyme match. We did the first one for you.

1. rap, tackle, stop
   snap, crackle, pop
2. bake, battle, *and* bowl
   snake, rattle, *and* roll
3. teddy, fret, blow
   ready, set, go
4. bed, tight, *and* flu
   red, white, *and* blue
5. mop, prop, *and* pole
   stop, drop, *and* roll

Blockheads!

Each block of letters contains a hidden message. Use the clues to figure out how to read each square. Once you know the code systems, use them to create your own secret notes!

1. You'll have to look high and low and high and low and high and low if you want to crack this code.

H	L	E	O	K	R
O	B	Y	O	A	O
W	U	O	L	T	R
C	O	U	?	I	R
A	D	R	Y	T	I
N	U	M	E	I	M
Y	O	O	N	N	A

2. Your head will be spinning before you figure out this secret message.

W	E	T	A	L	
H	?	E	W	M	
Y	I	P	S	O	
W	T	T	R	O	
A	O	V	E	R	
S	T	H	E	B	

"Your click is my command." Danielle D., Age 10, Pennsylvania

What begins with *E* and ends with *E* but has only one letter in it? An envelope. Cristina C., Illinois

What kind of basketball nets should you use if you live in Hawaii? Hula hoops. Lisa W., Age 13, Wisconsin

What kind of building always has the most stories? A library! Genny L., Age 12, Tennessee

The Giggle Gang

Vacation Vexation

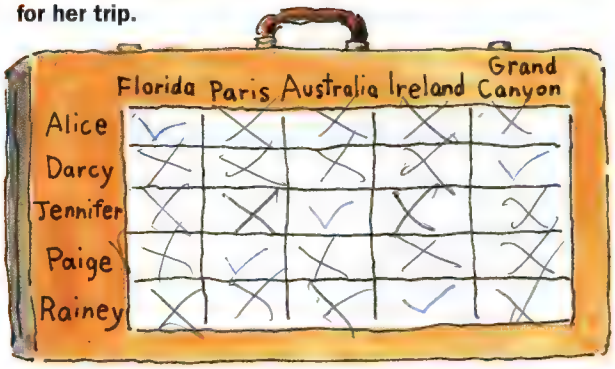
Alice, Darcy, Jennifer, Paige, and Rainey went on vacation to Florida, Paris, Australia, the Grand Canyon, and Ireland. Get your mind moving! Use the chart to figure out where each girl traveled.

Jennifer didn't go to Europe.

Alice has never been outside the United States.

Darcy's sister lives in Arizona, so she spent her vacation there.

Paige took classes in a foreign language to get ready for her trip.



Steal the Scene

Answer these questions about the scenes on page 42. No peeking!

1. What kind of animal appears as a statue? elephant

2. Which hat is that statue animal wearing? c

3. Which famous character appears on stilts? Uncle Sam

4. How many people are flying kites? 1

5. Which animal is climbing a light post? b.

6. Which person is eating ice cream? d

Answer Box

Steal the Scene: Missing items: two birds, lightbulb, crown, kite's tail, juggling ball, sun tank top design, 0 from zoo sign, bike flag, building, 20 on elephant, soccer ball pattern, balloon design, dog collar, mustache, flowers by zoo sign, man in gazebo, gazebo top, umbrella fringe, squirrel, and more!

Steal the Scene questions: 1. an elephant, 2. c, 3. Uncle Sam, 4. one, 5. b, 6. d

Rhyme-o-Rama: 1. snap, crackle, pop; 2. shake, rattle, and roll; 3. ready, set, go; 4. red, white, and blue; 5. stop, drop, and roll

Blockheads!: 1. Starting at the top left, read columns from top to bottom, bottom to top, and so on to see this message: How can you double your money? Look at it in a mirror. 2. Starting at the top left, read down and around the square, moving inward, to see this message: Why was the broom late? It over swept.

Vacation Vexation: Alice went to Florida, Darcy went to the Grand Canyon, Jennifer went to Australia, Paige went to Paris, and Rainey went to Ireland.

The buzzword, gadfly, is used on page 36.

What runs all around the cow pasture but never moves at all? A fence! Mariel N. Age 11, Massachusetts **"Knock, knock." "Who's there?" "Little old lady." "Little old lady who?" "Wow! I didn't know you could yodel."** Katy B. Age 10, Missouri **What's round, chocolaty, and swings through the trees in the jungle? A chocolate chimp cookie!** Heather S. Age 12, Montana **Why is it a good idea to plant bulbs in your garden? So that the worms can see where they are going!** Chelsea B. Age 14, Georgia

Who's That Girl?

Here's an American girl of yesterday. Read the clues about her and guess who she is now.

Clue 1

In third grade, I was jealous when my friend won the part of Tinkerbell in *Peter Pan*. But I soon realized that my terrible stage fright made even my small role as a pirate really hard to perform.

Clue 2

My love of golf began when I was young, thanks to my dad. I wasn't always great on the course, but those special golf outings with him were always "tee"-rific!

Clue 3

At seven, I needed surgery to repair my spine. Even worse than spending a week in the hospital and wearing a back brace was not being allowed to swim. Doctor's orders!

Clue 4

As a fourth-grader, I was scared to perform in the school talent show. But when I did, I was excited to see the audience go crazy for the Whitney Houston song I sang.

Here I am at age 10.

Clue 5

I loved the movie *Titanic* the first time I saw it at age 14. Later, I probably watched it ten more times. For me, just hearing the theme song started a sea of tears.

Take a guess!

When this American girl grew up, she became:

- ☐ an actress
- ☐ a doctor
- ☐ a singer
- ☐ a professional golfer

Turn the page and find out if you're right!

Illustrations: Tracey Wood

She's Jessica Andrews

Jessica performs for her fans.

Once almost too scared to sing onstage, singer Jessica Andrews has changed her tune! "Now it's all about going out there and having a blast," Jessica says. "Onstage, I feel an electricity that's indescribable!"

Jessica was just 14 years old when her first song, "I Will Be There for You," was included on the *Prince of Egypt* soundtrack. Now 18, Jessica has released two hit CDs, *Heart-Shaped World* and *Who I Am,* and she's toured with superstars like Trisha Yearwood and Faith Hill. In 2000, the Academy of Country Music named Jessica its top new female singer!

The first big break for the Tennessee girl came when Jessica was in sixth grade. She was invited to sing for a top record producer. Right in the middle of the song, he stopped her cold! "I thought I'd really messed up," Jessica recalls. But the producer only wanted his co-workers to hear Jessica's rich, grown-up voice, too. "When they really liked me, I was on cloud nine!"

At age 15, Jessica was thrilled thinking she could become one of the youngest country stars ever. But just before her first CD was released, two other teen country singers burst onto the charts. "My stomach was in knots," she remembers.

Jessica stayed focused and released her CD. "With any disappointment, you have to keep your head up, and know you have something special to offer the world!" ★

You can write to Jessica at:
The Jessica Andrews Fan Club
P.O. Box 365
Gibson, TN 38338

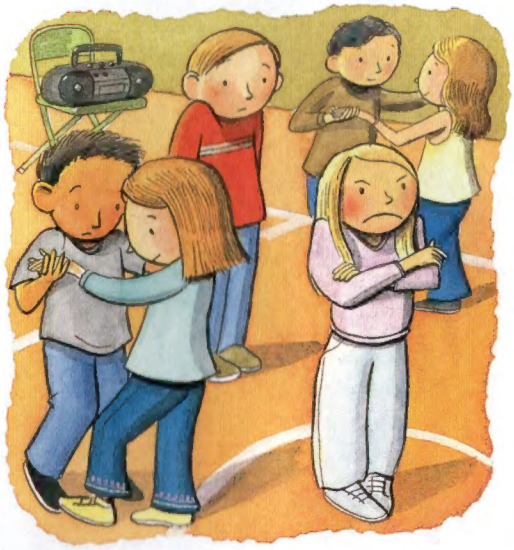
Jessica's advice to American girls:

"Be a leader, not a follower. Girls who have goals to achieve, and opinions they're confident about, are the ones to admire."

Jessica's next album will be released later this year.

Photo credits on page 2.

HELP!



Dear *American Girl,*

My music teacher said that we have to dance with boys. If we don't, we get a zero. I don't want to dance with boys. What do I do?

No, Thanks

Well, you *could* absolutely refuse to dance and accept the zero. Or you could just go ahead and try dancing. Even though you don't want to do it, dancing for a little while will be a lot less trouble than explaining the bad grade to your parents. No matter what, don't be mean to the boy who ends up being your dance partner. Hurting his feelings will make him miserable, and it won't make dancing any more fun for you.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

I have a friend I really like, but she's not nice to my sister. My friend says my sister is jealous and a copycat. I love my sister, but I don't know how to stand up for her. What should I do?

Picking Sides

It's time to stick up for your sis. The next time your friend says something unkind, say, "You don't have to like my sister, but I feel bad when you say things like that about her. I wish you'd stop." If your friend apologizes, just accept it and let the subject drop. But if your friend keeps insulting your sister, think twice about whether you really want her as a friend.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

I am so tall. I tower above everyone else in fifth grade. I feel like I stand out. I've tried to like being tall, but nothing boosts my confidence. Can you help?

Too Tall

You may be tempted to slouch and try to look shorter, but it won't work. So chin up! Chances are, a few kids will catch up to your height soon, and you won't feel so different. As you grow up, you'll probably start to enjoy being tall. Many tall women like their height. For now, be friendly and treat everyone with kindness and respect, and that's what people will notice about you.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

I'm a cheerleader, and I'd like to continue next year. The problem is that I did not make the honor roll for the first time in my life because of how busy I was with cheerleading. I really like to cheer and the squad needs me, but I want to keep my grades up.

Can't Decide

You know in your heart that nothing is more important than school—not even school spirit! But before you quit cheerleading, talk to your parents and your coach. See if you can find a way to balance your schedule so you have enough time to study *and* cheer. Are there any other hobbies or sports you could drop? If not, stick to studying. And cheer up! You can still go to games with friends and root for your team from the stands.

Illustrations: Scott Nash

MORE HELP!

Dear *American Girl*,

My mom always buys me clothes I don't like! I usually don't tell her I don't like them because I'm worried I'll hurt her feelings. Even if I tell her what I want to wear, she buys what *she* wants me to wear.

Can't Choose Own Clothes

If Mom thinks the styles you like are too grown-up for you, you can't change her mind. But you should have a say in what you wear. Share your opinion when you go shopping. Be specific! Try, "I like these jeans because they're comfortable," or, "I'm just not a frilly person." Focus on the clothes, not Mom's taste, and you'll be able to compromise without hurting her feelings. You can always offer to buy something you love with your own money, too.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

Today was the last day of school. We did this thing called "Fly Up," and met our next year's teacher. Well, I didn't really like her. Also, none of my friends will be in my class. What can I do?

School Worries

The way you *think* things will turn out is how they usually do, so try to look on the sunny side. You may not love your new teacher, but she could turn out to be just fine. And even though your friends will be in different classes, you can still see them after school, and now you'll have the chance to make some new friends. If you assume things will be O.K. instead of awful, you won't waste your summer worrying.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

My friends get everything. One got four pets. I have none. My friends also have playhouses. Another friend has a very big trampoline. I have nothing good.

Jealousy

There will always be people who have more stuff than you do. But you probably *do* have something your friends wish they had. It could be a talent, the color of your eyes, or the great way your family gets along. If you did have pets, a playhouse, and a trampoline, you'd have the most fun by sharing them with friends, right? That's what you're already doing! So stop dwelling on what you don't have, and enjoy being with your friends.

★

Advice from You

"If you get really stressed out by homework, keep a box of clay by your desk. When you feel like tearing your homework into little pieces, get out a lump of clay and take your feelings out on that instead. It's a stress reliever!"

Julianne C.
Age 13, New Jersey

Need advice? Got advice? Write:

Help!

AmericanGirl

8400 Fairway Place

Middleton, WI 53562

Shining Star

When you see the beauty and strength of a wild wolf like the one in this picture, it's easy to understand why Christina P. loves wolves. "To me," 12-year-old Christina explains, "wolves are really special and spiritual animals."

All her life, Christina has enjoyed visiting one gray wolf named Sierra. Sierra lives in an enclosure at an animal center near Christina's Virginia home. So when Christina learned that Sierra might have to move all the way to Texas, she was howling mad!

Concerned, Christina wrote to her local newspaper. In her letter, she explained her worries that Sierra might not survive the long trip to Texas. Sierra is 11—pretty old for a wolf—and she has lived in the same place all her life. Christina also noted that Sierra is one of only a few wolves left in Virginia, a place once home to many wild wolves. Determined, Christina even started a petition to keep Sierra in her home state.

Thanks to Christina's hard work, many people took up Sierra's cause. "A lot of kids have been out to see Sierra since I wrote my letter," Christina says. Eventually, Christina's city decided not to send Sierra to Texas. Even better, the city made plans to enlarge Sierra's living space to give the wolf more room to roam. "I'm really proud," says Christina. "I didn't know I could help get something like this done!"

Do you have a friend who shines as a volunteer? Maybe you're a star volunteer yourself. Write to the address on page 2 to tell us all about the shining stars you know. Each girl we honor receives a certificate and a sparkly star pendant—and AG will donate $500 to her cause.

Photo © Paul and Sandy Carey/Getty Images/PhotoDisc

For lots more fun, visit americangirl.com! Get a babysitting tip and a joke every day!

S'more Amelia for You
A crazy camping adventure that will leave you laughing

Wishes and Winners
Read the top entries from our poetry contest!

Movie Magic
Get a sneak peek of the new Spy Kids movie—and meet the girl star!

AmericanGirl®

Coming up in the July/August issue

Yikes!
Tips for getting yourself out of almost any sticky situation

True Tales of Friendship
Readers share sweet and silly stories about their best buds.

Water Works
Splash into summer with tons of fun ways to get wet!

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